



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: M00050025

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The initial allegation was an appearance of duplicate funding in federally supported research work of the subject.¹ This allegation evolved to include allegations of false statements made in annual and final reports submitted to supporting federal agencies, with overlapping claims of support in those reports, and a pattern of acknowledgements in publications that concealed the productivity of the research effort.

In December 1999, a program officer at NSF² noted problems with the subject's attribution and acknowledgement practices, and emphasized to him the importance of accurate attribution and acknowledgment with respect to his federal support. The subject's practices of inaccurate attribution and acknowledgement continued. In March 2001, the record shows that another NSF program officer³ emphasized to the subject the importance of proper attributions and acknowledgements. Despite the second reminder, inaccurate attributions and acknowledgements continued, particularly with respect to the joint contributions of federal agencies in supporting the subject's research. These continued specific inaccuracies in attribution and acknowledgements were discussed in our May 2, 2002 letter to the subject. In responses to the NSF program officer in December 1999 and to our letter of May 2002, the subject claimed that inaccuracies in attribution and acknowledgement were simple errors and oversight, and was able to provide corrected information. However, after each contact, he reverted to his practices of inaccurate attribution and acknowledgement. For example, additional inaccurate attributions of NSF support appeared in a final report submitted to NSF after our May 2, 2002 letter.

The recidivism of the subject led us to contact the University to explore actions that could be taken to ensure correct attribution and acknowledgments by the subject. The University agreed to:

- a. Correct annual and final reports for previous NSF grants of the subject to accurately reflect results obtained with the Federal support, and to remove any improper duplicative descriptions of research.
- b. To the extent practicable, make corrections to the published record of acknowledgements of Federal support for the subject's research.

¹ redacted.

² redacted.

³ redacted.



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- c. Implement an internal review procedure within the University to ensure that annual and final reports submitted by the subject are accurate, and that publications of the subject properly acknowledge Federal support.

We note that the review procedure described in Part c. is open-ended, and applies to both publications and to annual and final reports. This internal university review should prevent recurrence of inaccurate attributions and acknowledgements, protecting the interests of NSF in providing accurate peer review of proposals by reviewers and program officers, as well as providing an accurate published record of NSF support of the subject's research.

Accordingly, this case is closed.